

What can we do for Shrinking Geographies?

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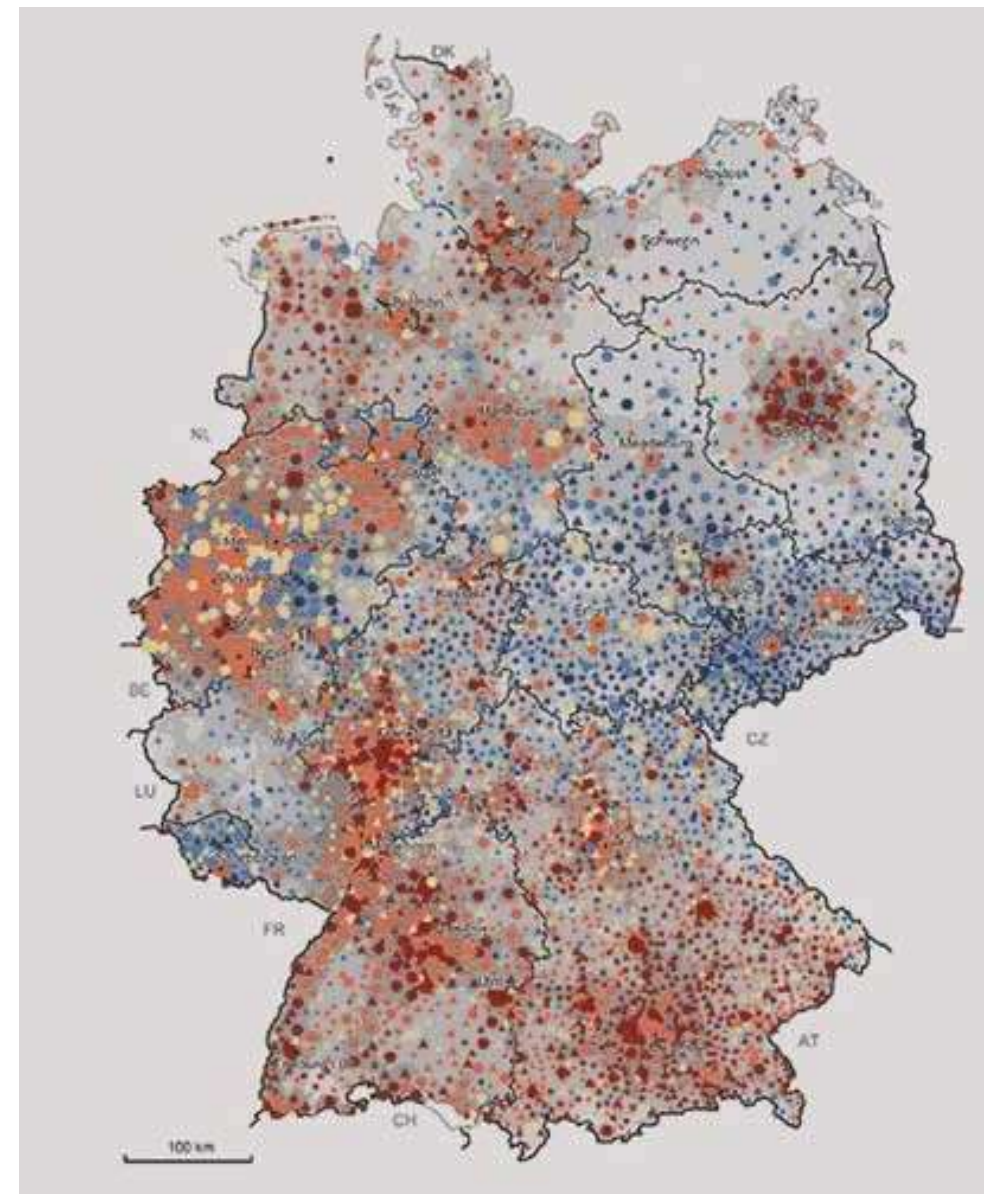
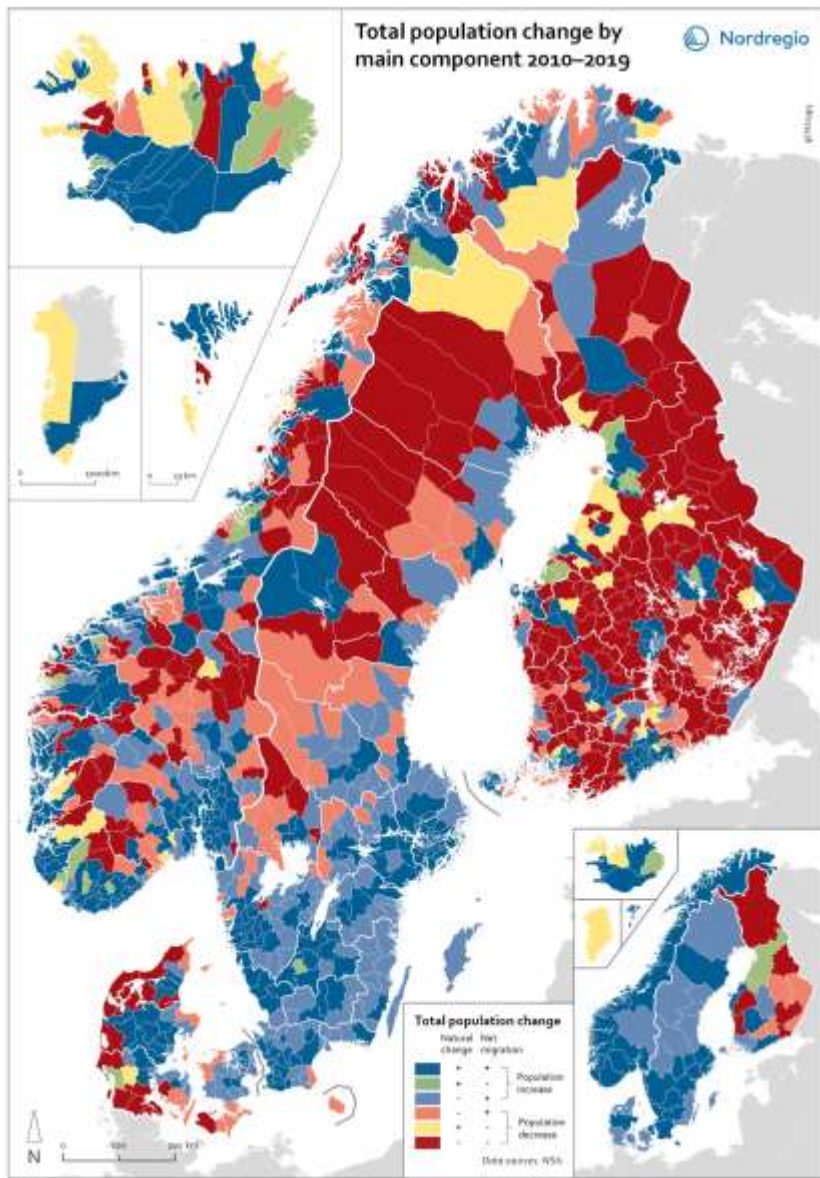
- You are most welcome!
- The consequences of neglect are huge - in terms of welfare, democracy, economy, community...
- The knowledge you develop here will be needed in the future.
- Build networks, ask questions, speak up - you are the forerunners.
- All kinds of knowledge will be needed!

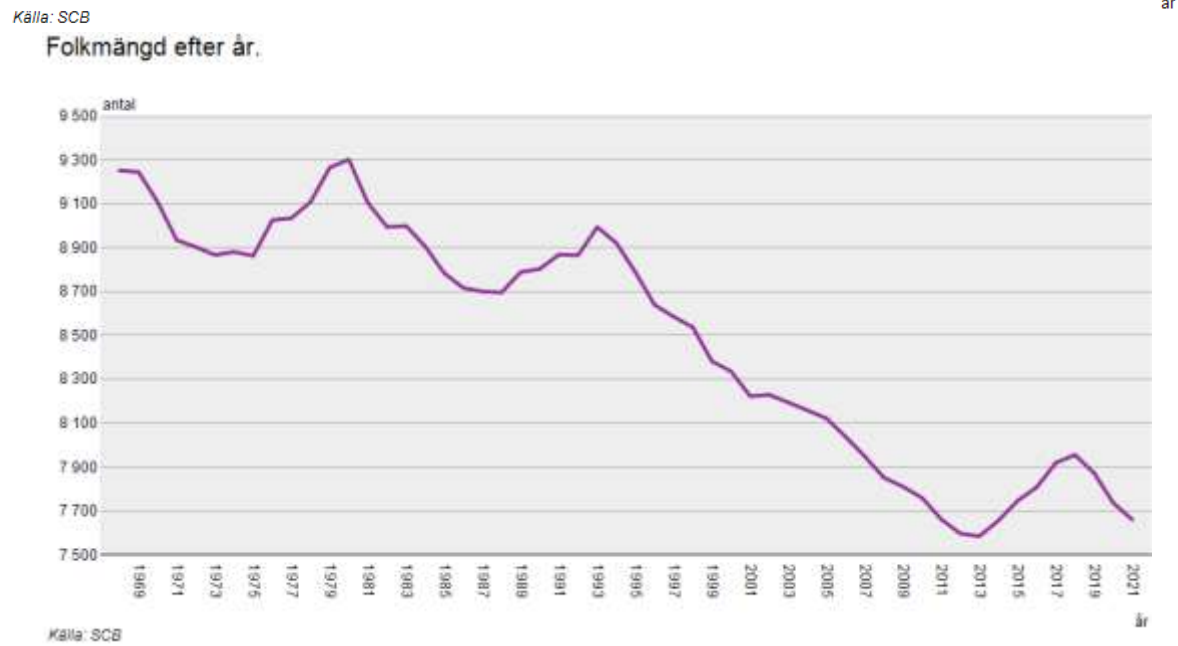
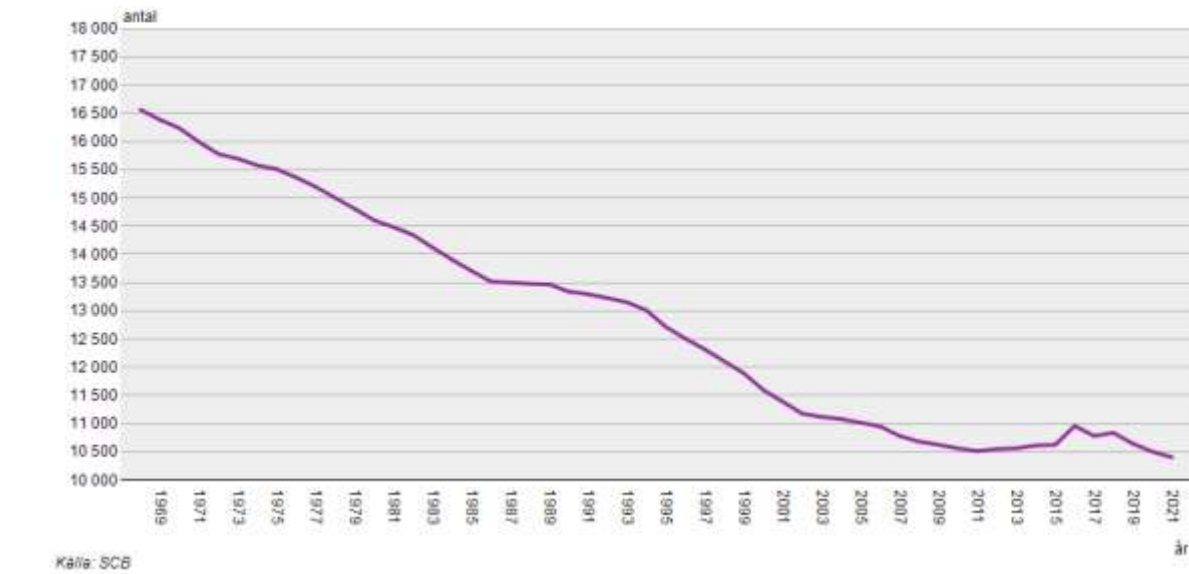
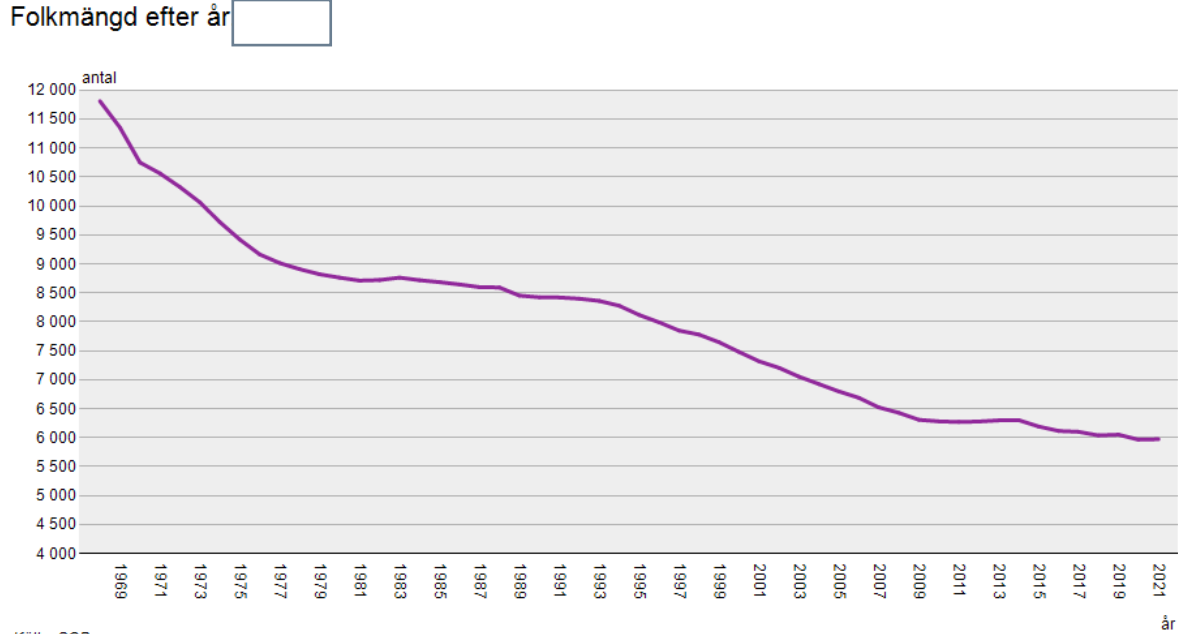
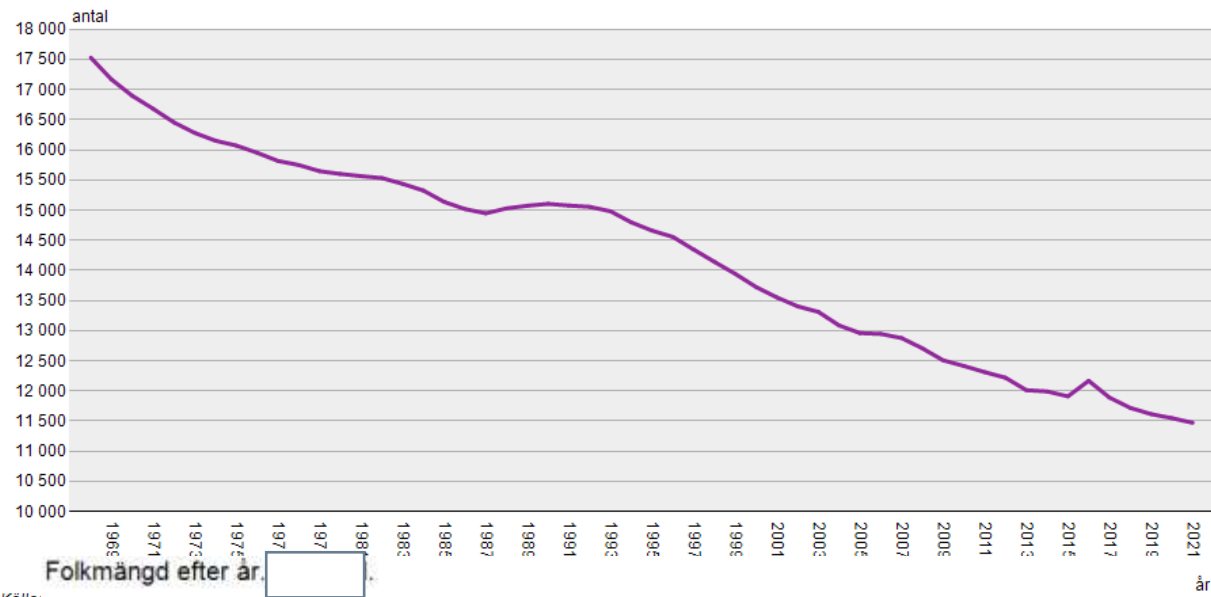
Potential contributions:

1. Demonstrate how resources have been distributed in space over time.
2. Explain why patterns take the shape they do.
3. Elucidate what it means to live, work, and operate in shrinking areas.
4. Make implicit geographical imaginations explicit.
5. Explicate how shrinkage is dealt with by various policy actors.
6. Identify alternative policy directions.
7. Providing case studies, or comparative studies from a Nordic context

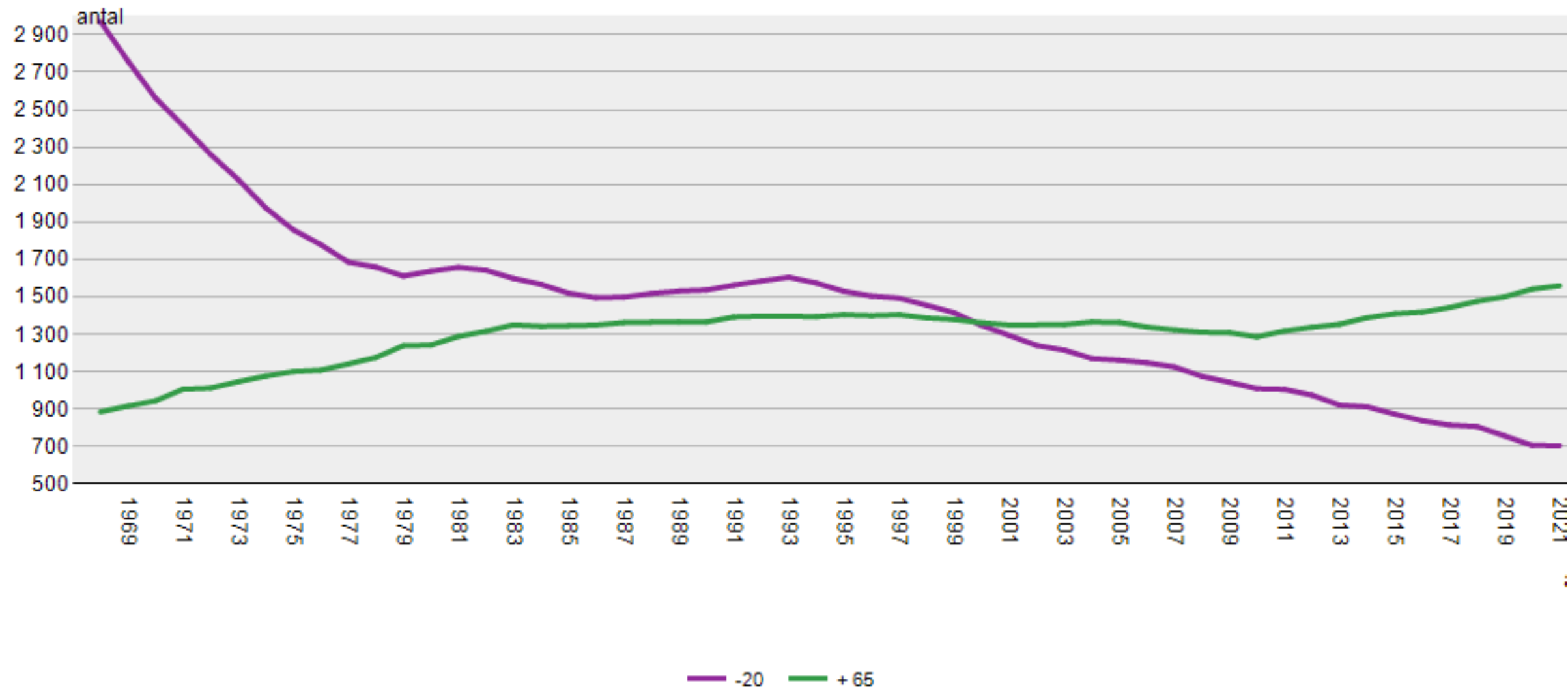
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Folkmängd efter ålder och år.



Demonstrate how resources have been distributed...

- **What** is it that shrinks, declines or disappears, when scholars talk about shrinkage?
- **Where** – in what localities or at what scale can shrinkage be observed?
- **When** did it all happen?

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Why do patterns take the shape they do?

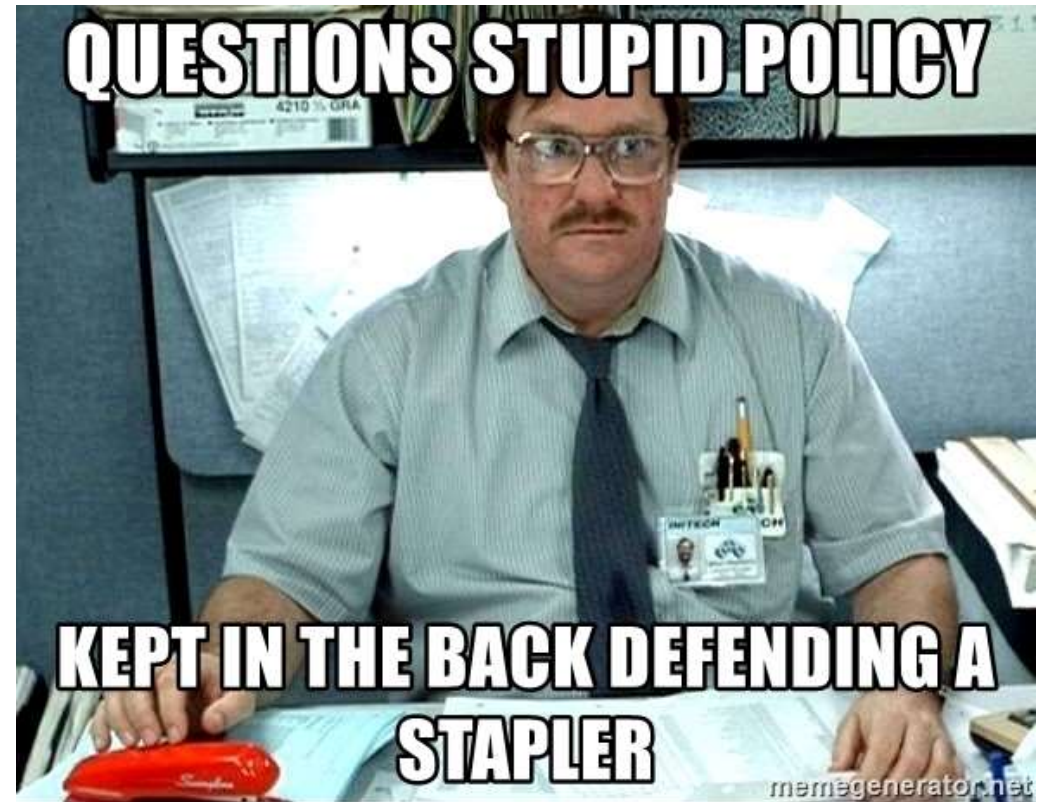
... **natural environments**, location factors, historical patterns, structural conditions and transformation, deindustrialisation, the rise of the service economy, changes in local labour market dynamics, globalisation, power-relations, an increased general mobility, selective out migration and birth deficits, changing preferences and behaviour among the **population ...**

Why do patterns take the shape they do?

- Asymmetrical and unequal conditions for societal development in different places.
- Peripheralization and centralisation as interdependent processes.

Why do patterns take the shape they do?

- Bad local policy is very seldom the answer.
- Even if conditions for governance may be hard in shrinking areas.

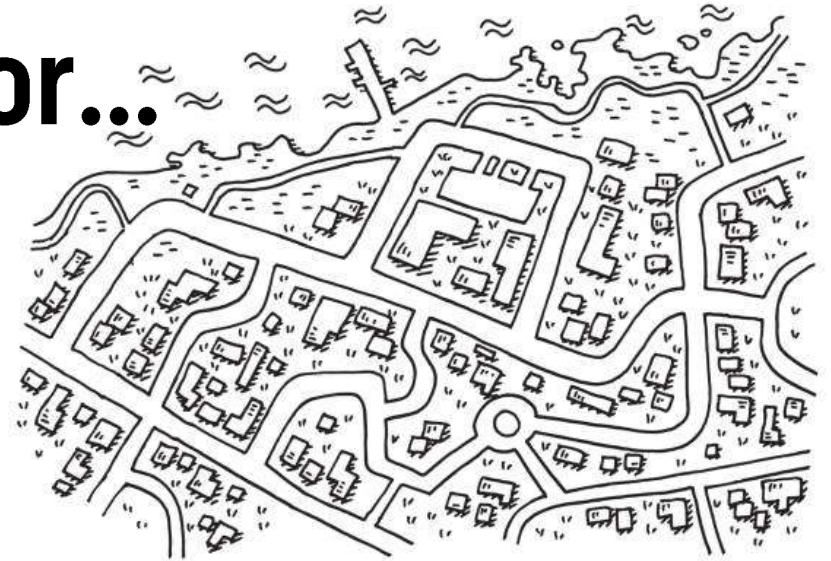


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What does shrinkage mean **for...**

- ✓ Infrastructure, planning, housing
- ✓ Social welfare, recruitment
- ✓ Public finances
- ✓ Business climate, investments
- ✓ Culture, social cohesion, identity, feelings



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Unrealistic and biased ideas about growth and the negative framing of demographic decline has constituted a hindrance to the evolvment of strategies for how to cope with decline.



Growth policy?

Mitigation policy?

Right sizing?

Smart shrinkage?

Adaptation policy?

Local economic sustainability?

GROWTH POLICY

MEASURES

Support to place branding, entrepreneurship, destination planning, investments, business climate

AIMING AT

creating growth (in GDP terms), investments, productivity.

..RESULTING IN

... Better tax powers, more wealth to be further invested, and redistributed within the public sector

ADAPTATION POLICY

MEASURES

Inter-municipal collaboration, civil society collaboration, efficiency, innovation, prioritizations, raising taxes.

AIMING AT

adapting the organisation and services of the public authority to current and coming demographic conditions.

...RESULTING IN

... Financial balance and continued quality in public services, despite demographic and economic decline.

ECONOMIC SUSTAINABILITY

MEASURES

Co-locate resources, social procurement, local food chains, local consumption

AIMING AT

Making at making the most of the resources there is in a place

...RESULTING IN

... Better tax powers, more wealth to be further invested, and redistributed within the public sector

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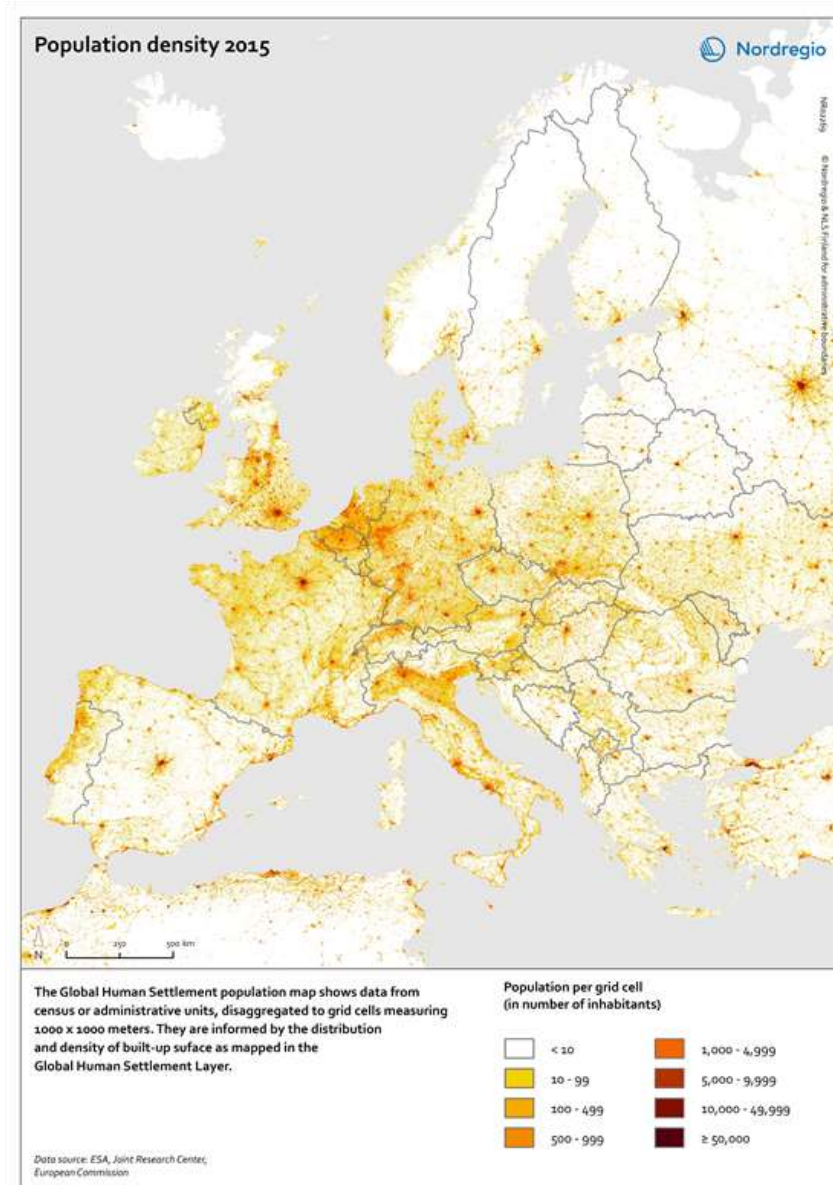
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Why Norden?



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Join a network!

Nordic shrinking geographies network
- adaptation, transition and resilience in shrinking rural areas

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